

## SUMMARY

HA-265

Union Chapel United Methodist Church  
1012 Old Joppa Road  
Joppa, Maryland 21085

Union Chapel United Methodist Church, incorporated in 1821, originally served Episcopalians, Quakers, Christians, and Methodists until 1834 when all but the Methodists had dispersed to other parts of Harford County. The original trustees were Rhesa Norris, Beale H. Richardson, John Norris, Benjamin Richardson, William Dimmitt, Ralph S. Lee, and Edward Norris. The one-story log chapel that is thought to have been the original one was moved to the Lee Magness farm on Whitaker Mill Road in 1948.

The present structure was dedicated in 1900. Although it looks much like the patterns put out by the Methodist Board of Church Extension in the last quarter of the 19th century, it may have been designed by architect Harry Norwood.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Union Chapel United Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
1012 Old Joppa Road (North side of Old Joppa Road, north of Md. Rt. 152) nr. Joppa

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY  | OWNERSHIP                                   | STATUS  | PRESENT USE  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT               | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED        | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED                 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE              | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH               | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS           | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                   | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                   | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT                 | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC              |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED   | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION          |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                         | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER                     |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Union Chapel United Methodist Church

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER  
1012 Old Joppa Road

CITY, TOWN

Joppa, Maryland

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
21085

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air, Maryland 21014

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL    \_\_\_ STATE    \_\_\_ COUNTY    \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

11/1/21

| CONDITION                                |                                       | CHECK ONE                                   | CHECK ONE                                 |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT       | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED          | <input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR            | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   |   |

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Union Chapel United Methodist Church, a Gothic one-story, el-shaped frame church with a 1-1/2 story modern addition, is located on the northwest side of Old Joppa Rd., east of Md. Rte. 152.

Set on a low stone foundation, the church has a bell tower with a sexagonal flared cap and balcony with spindle brackets and turned balusters in the inside of the ell, which faces the road. The tower and body of the church are sheathed in German siding, while the gables are covered in scalloped shingles. Windows have 1/1 sash with colored glass and pointed arches. The roof, with wide exposed eaves, has a cross gable with a diamond-shaped window on the west side and a 5-sided bay window beneath that flanked by 1/1 sash windows, while the east side has just one 5-part window. Each side of the inside of the ell has 1 1/1 window and the tower has 2 entrances with tripartite transoms in the north and east sides with round windows mid-way up the tower.

The cornerstone is inscribed "b. 1821 rebuilt 1899".

The interior has an entrance vestibule and, with the possibility of partitioning off the east end, one large el-shaped room. The chancel on a raised platform is in the west end and the pews are arranged in a semi-circular shape. The ceiling and wainscot have narrow beaded boards, and there are 3 ornamental wooden screens in the gable peak.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

AK 115

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD  |  | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC          | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING      | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION            | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS               | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE           |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION               | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING             | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY                | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION               |   |  |  |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Union Chapel United Methodist Church, which originally served Episcopalians, Quakers, Christians, and Methodists, was incorporated on January 30th, 1821, by the Maryland General Assembly. On May 31st, 1821, Benjamin Richardson and John Norris sold a 90 perch lot of the tracts, "Timber Hill" and "Prospect", to Alexander Norris who, on June 2nd, sold that lot "with the Union Chapel thereon erected" to the Board of Trustees of the Union Chapel. Of those original trustees, Rhesa Norris and Beale H. Richardson were Methodists; John Norris, Benjamin Richardson, and William Dimmitt (of Baltimore County) were Episcopalians; and Ralph S. Lee and Edward Norris were Quakers. When a vacancy occurred on the Board, each denomination was re-filled. The Episcopalians moved to Kingsville and Bel Air, the Quakers moved to Fallston in 1828, and the Christians to Franklinville in 1834, so within a decade of its incorporation Union Chapel became a Methodist Church.

What is said to have been the original building, a 1-story gable roofed log structure measuring 22' by 36', was moved to the Lee Magness farm on Whitaker Mill road in 1948. An old photograph shows that it was 3 bays long and 1 bay wide, sheathed in clap-boards and German siding, with 9/9 windows and louvered shutters, and a brick interior chimney with a corbelled cap in the center of one side. The entrance with a round-arched louvered (shuttered?) opening above it was located in one end. One description states that the log chapel "had a very high pulpit, over which was inscribed the words "How Amiable Are Thy Tabernacles, Oh, Lord of Hosts". It was furnished with rude wooden benches so rigidly upright as to guarantee complete wakefulness on the part of the congregagion throughout the entire service." That same description notes the presence of a gallery for slaves at the rear of the chapel.

The present structure was constructed in 1899 during the joint pastorate of Rev. S. B. Tredway and Rev. C. M. Complier. The architect's specifications call for dressed pine sheathing and cypress shingles "sawed fancy", as well as a "cornerstone marble 12X12X24 with inscription on with hole cut out in bottom for tin box 6"X6"X5" deep." The building committee consisted of the 2 ministers and Alphonso Robinson (treasurer), Isaac Sanner, J. W. Archer, S.S. Bevard, George Archer, J. T. Norris, D. T. Archer, and Dr. C. Bagley, and dedication services were held on March 25, 1900.

According to one newspaper article, the building was supposed to be 45 by 32 feet with a lecture room measuring 23 by 26 feet and a 70-foot tower, erected at a cost of \$4700. The church also has an unsigned agreement between the building committee and a contractor, James L. Norwood and Son of Baltimore County, to construct a building conforming to the drawings and specifications made by Harry M. Norwood for a cost of \$3308.

(See continuation sheet #1)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land Records of Harford County  
Wright, C. Milton, Our Harford Heritage, 1967  
Program for the Dedication Service of the Memorial Marker to the Original  
Union Chapel; 9/19/48  
Article in the Sunday Sun, 7/31/1921

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | COUNTY |
|-------|--------|
| STATE | COUNTY |

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

|   |  |              |                    |
|---|--|--------------|--------------------|
| NAME / TITLE                            |  | DATE         |                    |
| Natalie Shivers, Historic Site Surveyor |  | 8/80         |                    |
| ORGANIZATION                            | Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning | TELEPHONE    | 838-6000 x 207     |
| STREET & NUMBER                         | 45 South Main Street                             | CITY OR TOWN | Bel Air, Maryland. |
| CITY OR TOWN                            | Bel Air, Maryland.                               | STATE        | 21014              |

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

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Union Chapel United Methodist Church

8. Statement of Significance

(Continuation Sheet #1)

The church looks much like the plans for Methodist Churches published by the Methodist Board of Church Extension which assisted congregations with erecting and financing their church beginning in 1877, and indeed Union Chapel may have been modelled on a pattern.

1. Liber HD 5, Folio 55
2. Sunday Sun, July 31, 1921
3. Sunday Sun, July 31, 1921

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Union Chapel United Methodist Church  
9. Major Bibliographical References

(Continuation Sheet #1)

Article in the Aegis, "The Centennial of Union Chapel, 8/5/1921  
Book of Clippings compiled by C. D. Norris, begun 5/5/1867  
Interview with Ruth Burns 8/14/1980

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST  
BOX 1704  
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| STATE:           |      |
| COUNTY:          |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE |
|                  |      |

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Union Chapel, Wilna

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: North side of Old Joppa Road about 0.3 mi east of

CITY OR TOWN: Joppa Mountain Road (Mc152)

STATE: Maryland COOE: COUNTY: Harford COOE:

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)  | OWNERSHIP                                 | STATUS  | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC   |
|--|---|---|--|
| District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> | Public <input type="checkbox"/>           | Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>               | Private <input type="checkbox"/>          | In Process <input type="checkbox"/>   | Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Object <input type="checkbox"/>  | Both <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Semi</u> | Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>   | Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>                       |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)                                 |   |   |  |
| Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>  | Government <input type="checkbox"/>       | Park <input type="checkbox"/>   | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>                                      |
| Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>  | Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>       | Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>  | Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>                                     |
| Educational <input type="checkbox"/>   | Military <input type="checkbox"/>         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/>                    |  |
| Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>   | Museum <input type="checkbox"/>           | Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>   |  |

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME: Union Chapel Methodist Church

STREET AND NUMBER: Fallston

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: 21047 CODE:

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

STREET AND NUMBER: HARFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE 40 S. MAIN ST.

CITY OR TOWN: BEL AIR STATE: MARYLAND CODE:

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

INSTRUCTIONS

Traces: ENR  
lines of chapel

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

|           |                                    |  |                               |                                       |  |                                    |
|-----------|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One)                        |  |                               |                                       |  |                                    |
|           | Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Good</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>      | Fair <input type="checkbox"/> | Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> | Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>                           | Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/> |
| INTEGRITY | (Check One)                        |  |                               | (Check One)                           |  |                                    |
|           | Altered <input type="checkbox"/>   | <u>Unaltered</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                               | Moved <input type="checkbox"/>        | <u>Original Site</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Their second church building on this plot of land ~~is~~ is frame construction on granite foundations, cruciform in shape with the steeple over the entrance doors at the southeast corner of the cross. White clapboard below the eaves, dark shingle in the gable ends, the steeple of white clapboard is given the appearance of height.

Stained glass ~~is~~ in diamond-shaped panes in two large windows facing east and south.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                       |   |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>     | Education <input type="checkbox"/>    | Political <input type="checkbox"/>                      | Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>    | Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>  | Religion/Philosophy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic <input type="checkbox"/>       | Industry <input type="checkbox"/>     | Science <input type="checkbox"/>                        | <u>Architecture</u>                      |
| Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>    | Invention <input type="checkbox"/>    | Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>                      | _____                                    |
| Art <input type="checkbox"/>            | Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>    | Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>            | _____                                    |
| Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>       | Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater <input type="checkbox"/>                        | _____                                    |
| Communications <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature <input type="checkbox"/>   | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>                 | _____                                    |
| Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>   | Military <input type="checkbox"/>     |   |  |
|   | Music <input type="checkbox"/>        |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

One of several churches that used the ~~same~~ same building, this was first established in 1821 to serve four denominations. The original building was of logs 36' x 22', and was not torn down until 1948. In 1828 the Quakers moved to Fallston, and the Episcopalians to Kingsville and Bel Air. Members of the Christian church withdrew in the 1830's and the Methodists remained, retaining the name. ~~Methodist~~ About 140 years later the present frame building was put up, largely donated by the Arden family.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

N. R. FIELD SHEET

NA-265

Wright, O. Milton - Our Harford Heritage p217.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | O<br>R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE |                         |  |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|--|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |        | LATITUDE   | LONGITUDE               |  |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |        | Degrees Minutes Seconds  | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | ° ' "  | ° ' "                   |  |
| NE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | ° ' "  | ° ' "                   |  |
| SE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | ° ' "  | ° ' "                   |  |
| SW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | ° ' "  | ° ' "                   |  |

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY  | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
|        |      |         |      |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
|        |      |         |      |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
|        |      |         |      |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
|        |      |         |      |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **JEAN S. EWING**

ORGANIZATION: **MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST** DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER: **50 STATE CIRCLE**

CITY OR TOWN: **ANNAPOLIS** STATE: **MARYLAND** CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

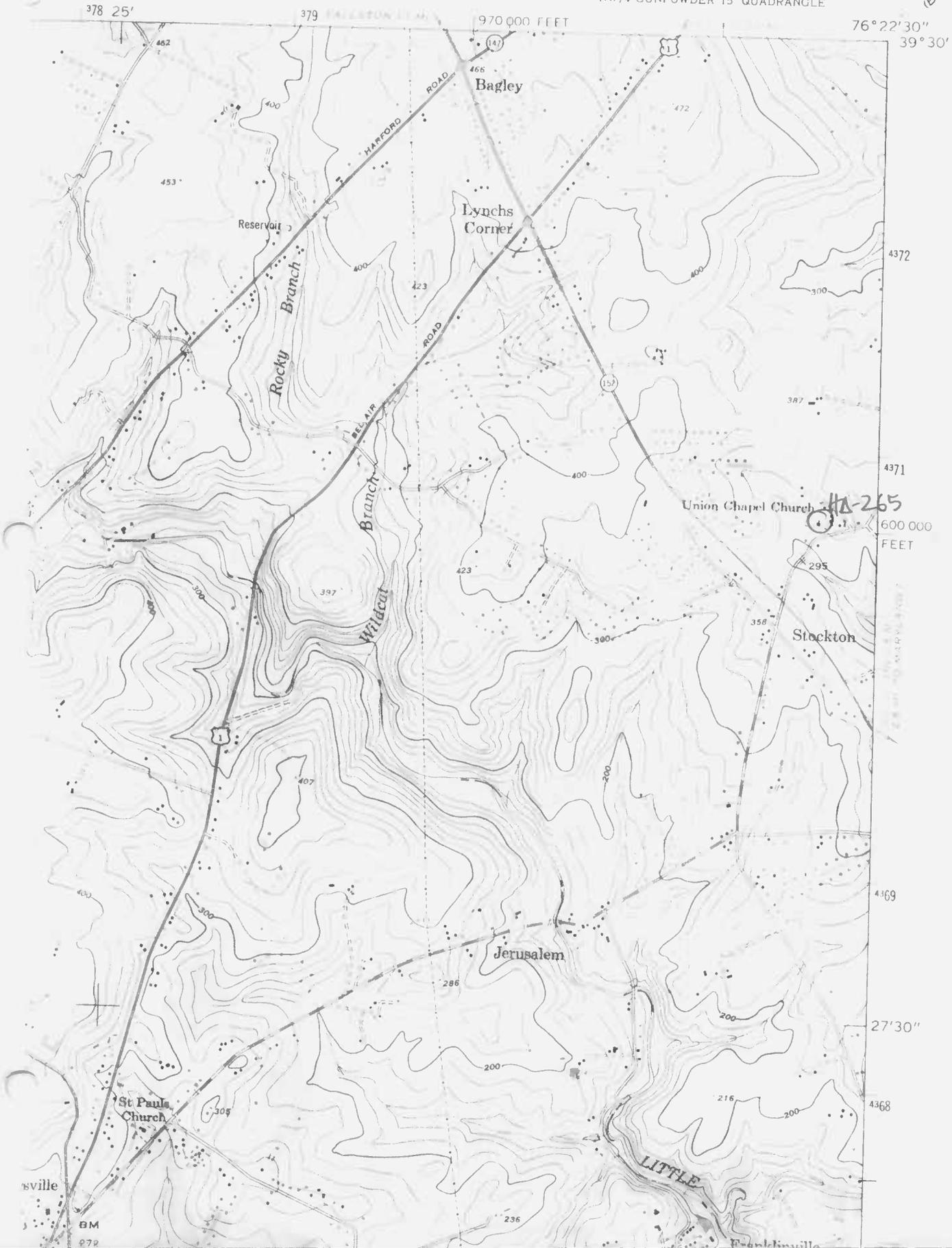
\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

WHITE MARSH QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
NW/4 GUNPOWDER 15' QUADRANGLE

5763 III SE  
(BEL AIR)





UNION CHAPEL  
Joppa, Maryland  
Natalie Shivers  
April, 1980  
Northwest

HA-265



UNION CHAPEL

HA-265

JOPPA, MARYLAND 21035

Natalie Shivers

April, 1980

Northeast